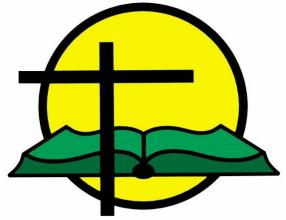


Westview Baptist Church



1st November 2015

Our purpose is to bring glory to God.

We will do this as we: *Are transformed by enjoying Christ; Love by serving others; and proclaim Jesus by faithfully living in a fallen world*

Will you pour out your heart to God?

We start the book of Lamentations this Sunday. It is not an easy book. It is filled with grief and despair because Jerusalem (the Southern Kingdom of Israel) had been destroyed and those left had been taken away to exile in Babylon. The grief in this book is very real and very raw, as the writer recalls the devastation that had come upon the city. Yet at the same time the writer is clear that this destruction and devastation has come upon Jerusalem because of their continual rejection of their God, turning to other gods and worshipping them and serving them.

The book is also clear that it was God who brought this punishment on the people of Jerusalem, and while the writer knows this was for their sin, that does not stop the crying out to God with words like: "Look, O LORD, on my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed" and "Look, O LORD, and consider: Whom have you ever treated like this?" There is a deep anguish and mourning over the pain experienced. While this was for sin, surely it can apply to all suffering. What will you do in the face of your suffering or the suffering that comes tomorrow? Will you pour out your heart before God? Crying out to Him in your grief, and confusion, in your desperation? Or will you choose to go after another god, something that promises to alleviate your suffering? Will you turn away from God? Or will you pour out your heart to the God who understands you, the God who knows you, the God who cares for you...

Family News

WRAP Meeting last Sunday

Thanks to all those who stayed back and contributed to the WRAP meeting last Sunday. It was a great time to reflect on the many things that have taken place over the past few months (happy and sad), to think about what is happening and to look forward to the future. The minutes from the meeting are available [online](#) and on the back table. The Westview 2020 vision was also mentioned as something that is important for us as a church to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider, this is also available [online](#) or by speaking to Lee or JJ for a copy. Please do take some time to read over it and prayerfully consider it. If you have any questions or thoughts please speak to Lee or JJ.

New email address for the Kennings

Tony and Lynne have a new email address, which is:
cellgus@iprimus.com.au Their old one will no longer be in use.

What's Coming Up @ Westview

Westview Working Bee!

Saturday 14th December

Most years we try and reserve a day to do some general cleaning up and some of the jobs that need to happen for the property to be looked after well. If you can lend a hand for a few hours on this day that would be great.

People will be cleaning at the church by 9am. Thanks.



Men's Group – This Tuesday Night 3rd November

6pm – Doonside Cottage

If you are interested in coming along to get to know other men from the community please speak to JJ.

Blacktown Respect Walk! 8th November 1-5pm (Blacktown Showground)

This is a community event promoting respect for the differences of culture in the diverse city of Blacktown. Bay Ayling among others are organising this event. We would encourage people to go along. If you register for the event beforehand you receive a free Blacktown Respect Tshirt. You can register [online](#) or speak to JJ



Soccer in the Park 15th November 2pm

All welcome. Charlie Bali Reserve Doonside.
From 2pm. Any questions? Speak to JJ.



Esther Play – Saturday Night December 5th! Put it in your diary.

Thanks to Andrew we will be having a light-hearted, comical stage play on the book of Esther. At the moment the idea is that we will invite family, friends and anyone along to enjoy the play, which will be followed by a dessert. Please start inviting! If you are interested in being involved speak to Andrew or JJ.



Weekly Homegroups

Just a reminder that there are weekly home groups where we open God's word, pray for and support each other in this journey of faith in Jesus. There are currently a number of groups that meet on weeks days and nights. Please speak to Lee or JJ if you are interested in more information.

Are you in need of specific prayer?

If you are needing prayer for anything specific, or are struggling in anyway and just need someone to talk to, then please don't hesitate to speak to our Elders or Deacons (Lee, JJ, Kath and Steve) who would love to speak with or pray for you.

Pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters

Country: Tunisia **Leader:** President Moncef Marzouki

Population: 11.2 million **Main Religion:** Islam **Government:** Republic

Main Source of Persecution: Islamic Extremism

The very promising revolution in 2011, which started off the revolutionary wave in other countries, turned out to be a disappointment for both liberals and Christians in Tunisia. While expatriate Christians experience a relative amount of freedom within the church walls, Christian converts from a Muslim background (MBBs) face a variety of pressures. In Tunisia, Christians particularly experience increasing pressure at the private and family level. There are notable differences in the level of persecution in between the countryside and the country's capital Tunis where the situation is comparatively better.

Pressure is generalized throughout the private, family, community and church spheres of life, but less so in the national sphere. Reports from the field indicate that pressure on Muslim Background Believers coming from their families has increased. Violent incidents during this year's reporting period include one case of a Christian being abducted for his faith, several cases of Christian women who suffered some form of sexual harassment (including at least one known case of forced marriage during this reporting period), and many cases of Christians being physically harmed and their houses and shops vandalized. Moreover, a number of Christians had to leave their homes and some even fled the country.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Tunisia



www.westviewbaptistchurch.com.au



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www.twitter.com/westviewbaps



www.instagram.com/westviewbaptist

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